

## Letter from Mabel Hubbard Bell to Eliza Symonds Bell, August 28, 1896, with transcript

Letter from Mrs. Alexander Graham Bell to Mrs. Alexander Melville Bell. Beinn Bhreagh, Victoria County, Cape Breton, N. S. Aug. 28th, 1896. My dear Mrs. Bell:

In a few days my mother and father will be leaving for the South and our summer will be over. I hope that you have been having as good a time in your way as we in ours. I begin to think there are some joys in a quiet life and that there is something to be said for the soft relaxing air of the South. I am sure that it must be our exhilarating air that makes our young people so wild and keeps us in a state of ferment all the time.

I have two boys here, and Mamma has as many more, and there are any number of girls all around. They are all nice children, still I think it a good thing schools were invented otherwise the old people would be rushed off the earth in a very short time.

Yesterday we had a childrens' party, and Alec said they sounded like a troop of cavalry rushing through the house. But we all had a good time nevertheless, the children were from my sewing school, and were so anxious to come that they walked all the way from town to Crescent Grove and back again, three miles, in order to get here. We had games for them on the lawn, and then supper in the house, and our home children, twelve in number entertained them, of course our young people are much too old for tag or "Blind man's buff" on their own account, but it was great fun playing for the benefit of the little children.

Did you hear of my Father and Mother's going out to camp? Everybody said they were crazy to think of undertaking such a journey, fifteen miles by wagon and five miles tramp through the mountain woods, 2 but I was sure they could do it, and they did, very easily. They staid three days in camp and then went home alone, leaving Alec, Mr. McCurdy and

## Library of Congress

me to stay another two days. When we got home we found our crowd wild to have a play, and they finally performed "Proposing under Difficulties" very well indeed. Grace coached them and she did splendidly. The only trouble was that the day of the performance happened to be very stormy so that no one could get over from town. Accordingly we are talking of repeating the performance. Daisy was the heroine of the play, and Gypsey took the maids part, Paul Hubbard was the lover and Frank McKeen, Dr. McKeen's son, the other man. Both girls played splendidly and I was very proud of Daisy.

We have decided to send Daisy to boarding school with Gipsey as we feel that she could not do any work when Elsie is going out. She goes to a school in Utica, N. Y. which pres. Gilman recommends. Her school opens September 24th. Elsie is to be bridesmaid at a wedding Oct. 15th. and we may come down about that time.

I hope that you are all quite well, we have not heard from you since I last wrote.

With much love to all, Affectionately, Mabel.